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Control: 17164

Rec'd: OCTOBER 23, 1962

10:44 AM

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FROM: MOSCOW

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TO: Secretary of State

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 1039 INFORMATION USON PRIORITY 16

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APART FROM LAST NIGHT'S ANNOUNCEMENT PRESIDENT WOULD SPEAK, MADE BEFORE SPEECH DELIVERED, MOSCOW RADIO OCTOBER 23 HAS NOT MADE FURTHER REFERENCE SPEECH (AS OF 1400 HOURS MOSCOW TIME). NOTHING IN MORNING PRESS TO INDICATE SPEECH WAS IMPENDING. HOWEVER, OCTOBER 23 PRAVDA FRONT-PAGES TEN COLUMN-INCHES MATERIAL ON CUBA UNDER HEADINGS "US RULING CIRCLES PLAYING WITH FIRE" AND "DANGEROUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS" AND FURTHER SUB-TITLED "SECRET MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON," "KENNEDY CANCELS TRIP AROUND COUNTRY," AND "AMERICAN TROOPS CONCENTRATING NEAR CUBA." FRONT-PAGE MATERIAL CONSISTS OF THREE TASS REPORTS. FIRST IS FROM NEW YORK REPORTING HIGH-LEVEL SUNDAY ACTIVITY IN WASHINGTON WHICH COINCIDED WITH ALLEGED HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF MILITARY FORCES NEAR CUBA. SECOND IS FROM WASHINGTON REPORTING SALINGER STATEMENT REGARDING MONDAY MORNING CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, ROBERT KENNEDY, MCNAMARA. THIRD IS FROM NEW YORK CITING UPI REPORT FROM ROSSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO, THAT JOURNALISTS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED ON US WARSHIPS HEADED FOR CUBA AREA AND THAT VICE ADMIRAL RIVERO'S PRESS CONFERENCE HAD BEEN CANCELLED.

PAGE THREE PRAVDA CARRIES 26 COLUMN-INCHES ON CUBA. UPPER HALF THIS MATERIAL HEADED "CONCENTRATION OF AMERICAN

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-2- 1039, OCTOBER 23, 2 PM FROM MOSCOW

ARMED FORCES IN CARIBBEAN SEA," AND CONTAINS TASS ARTICLE FROM NEW YORK ON MANEUVERS IN CARIBBEAN, PLANS FOR INVASION EXERCISE ON VIEQUES ISLAND, AND KEY WEST BUILD-UP. ARTICLE DRAWS ON NY TIMES, HERALD TRIBUNE, AND UNNAMED WIRE SERVICES.

THERE IS ALSO BRIEF REPORT FROM NEW YORK HEADED "FOR PURPOSES OF CHAPPERING TENSION" CITING UPI STORY FROM WASHINGTON THAT OAS WOULD MEET ON WEDNESDAY TO RENEW DISCUSSION OF CUBA. LOWER HALF PAGE THREE CUBA MATERIAL IS HEADED

"CUBA THREATENS NOBODY--FRENCH WEEKLY EXPOSES AMERICAN CLANDERERS." EXCERPTS ARE GIVEN FROM STORY IN "L'EXPRESS" BY SERGE LAFORY WHO AFTER VISIT TO CUBA SAYS HE ENCOUNTERED NOT EVEN ONE COLUMN OF RUSSIAN TROOPS AND ALL SOVIET MILITARY HELP TO CUBA DOES IS MAKE AMERICAN INVASION MORE DIFFICULT.

FINALLY, SEVEN COLUMN-INCHES OF MATERIAL ON CUBA ARE SCATTERED THROUGH LONG (FORTY-SEVEN COLUMN-INCHES) "INTERNATIONAL REVIEW" ON PRAVDA BACK PAGE WHICH FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON GDR-POLISH COMMUNIQUE AND RECORD 87TH CONGRESS. MENTION IS MADE OF CUBA SECTION OF GDR-POLISH COMMUNIQUE, OF ALLEGED US CONGRESSIONAL BELLIGERENCE VIS-A-VIS CUBA, AND THERE IS BOLD-FACE PARAGRAPH READING IN PART AS FOLLOWS: "RIGHT NOW, AS THESE LINES ARE BEING WRITTEN, THE TELEGRAPH HAS BROUGHT ALARMING NEWS THAT A NEW ADVENTURE IS BEING PREPARED IN WASHINGTON...ATMOSPHERE OF MILITARY PSYCYOSIS, WHICH HAS GRIPPED WASHINGTON IN PAST DAYS INDICATES CLEARLY THAT AGGRESSORS INTEND TO CONTINUE THEIR IRRATIONAL PLAYING WITH FIRE, ARE PREPARING TO HEAT UP INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE TO LIMIT. BUT LET LOVERS OF MILITARY ADVENTURES PUT THIS INTO THEIR HATS: HE WHO PLAYS WITH FIRE RISKS BURNING HIS OWN HANDS."

MINOR PRESS OCTOBER 23 AND OCTOBER 22 IZVESTIYA COVER CUBA ALONG SAME LINES BUT WITH LIGHTER TREATMENT.

MOSCOW TELEVISION NEWSCAST OCTOBER 22 AT 2230 HOURS LOCAL TIME CARRIED BRIEF STORY PURPORTINGLY SHOWING CUBAN EXILES TRAINING WITH AMERICAN WEAPONS, WITH STRONG IMPLICATION THEY BEING PREPARED INVADE CUBA.

DMB

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